

TO MODIFY AND AMEND THE MINING LAWS OF ALASKA

JANUARY 27, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ROBSION of Kentucky, from the Committee on Mines and Mining, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4148]

This bill is designed to correct a condition that has developed in the placer mining sections of Alaska by reason of the inhibition contained in the act of Congress of August 1, 1912, in restriction of the length of placer mining claims for patent entry.

The act of 1912 provides as follows:

SEC. 6. That no placer mining claim hereafter located in Alaska shall be patented which shall contain a greater area than is fixed by law, or which is longer than three times its greatest width.

In many cases rectangular mining claims have been located with an area in excess of the 20 acres provided for in the law, and when these claims have been surveyed the excess area is eliminated from the claim by the survey and is located as a fractional claim upon which assessment work to the value of \$100 per annum must be performed, just the same as if it were a 20-acre claim. These fractions, in almost all cases, are of much greater length than three times their width, and hence, under the law, can not be entered for patent.

This bill would correct the situation to the extent of permitting the above-described fractions that lie between other claims to be patented.

The Secretary of the Interior has given his approval to the passage of the bill in the following letter under date of April 14, 1924:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 14, 1924.

HON. JOHN M. ROBSION,
*Chairman Committee on Mines and Mining,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. ROBSION: I have examined the copy of H. R. 4148 submitted by you, under which it is proposed to modify and amend section 4 of the act of Congress of August 1, 1912, section 129d, Compiled Laws of Alaska.

The proposed law would remove the dimensional restriction imposed by said section 4 where isolated parcels of unappropriated placer ground in Alaska are surrounded on all sides by patented claims, and contains nothing objectionable.

I recommend favorable action on the bill.

Very truly yours,

E. C. FINNEY, *Acting Secretary.*

And under date of April 24, 1924, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 24, 1924.

HON. JOHN M. ROBSION,
*Chairman Committee on Mines and Mining,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. ROBSION: In response to your request by telephone, to be advised just what is the meaning of that part of H. R. 4148, which reads " * * * as determined by a transverse line drawn within the lines of the claim and at right angles to its longest side," I have to advise you that this wording is construed by this department as meaning that no matter what the shape of a placer location in Alaska may be, the longest exterior line of such location shall form the base for measuring the width of the location, and the greatest length of any straight line which can be drawn at right angles at any point on such base, within the claim, shall determine the greatest width of the location.

Very truly yours,

E. C. FINNEY, *Acting Secretary.*

has interpreted the meaning of "a transverse line drawn within the lines of the claim and at right angles to its longest side."



This bill is designed to correct a condition that has developed in the placer mining sections of Alaska by reason of the inhibition contained in the act of Congress of August 1, 1912, in restriction of the length of placer mining claims for patent entry. The act of 1912 provides as follows:

"That no placer mining claim hereafter located in Alaska shall be patented which shall contain a greater area than is used by law or when a longer than three times its greatest width."

In many cases rectangular mining claims have been located with an area in excess of the 30-acre limit provided for in the law, and when these claims have been surveyed the excess area is eliminated from the claim by the survey, and is located as a fractional claim upon which assessment work to the value of \$100 per annum must be performed. Just the same, said it were a 20-acre claim. These fractions in almost all cases are of much greater length than three times their width, and hence, under the law, can not be entered for patent.

This bill would correct the situation to the extent of permitting the above-described fractions that lie between other claims to be patented.

The Secretary of the Interior has given his approval to the passage of the bill in the following letter under date of April 14, 1924:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 14, 1924.

Hon. John M. Robison,

Chairman Committee on Mines and Mining,

House of Representatives.

My Dear Mr. Robison: I have examined the copy of H. R. 4148 submitted by you under which it is proposed to modify and amend section 4 of the act of Congress of August 1, 1912, section 1364, Compiled Laws of Alaska.